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Ransom for Cubans

Questions are being asked over who is financing the planned ransom of the Cubans captured at the Bay of Pigs invasion. James Donovan, a New York lawyer, who negotiated the "exchange" of Francis Powers, the U2 pilot and Rudolph Able, has been the negotiator with Castro. The reported asking price is \$62 million in food and medicines. While the terms have not been met, the amount that will be required is certainly far more than private organizations would put up.

So the questions are directed at the government. Will the President put up cash out of his contingency funds? Will government-owned surplus foods be used? Or will the Central Intelligence Agency advance the funds from its secret purse?

While government officials have not been involved publicly, the general opinion is that much of the ransom will have to be provided by the government. It is also learned now that Donovan was acting as an agent for the CIA when he made the Powers deal with Russia. For that he was awarded the CIA distinguished service medal. That seems to put a CIA tag on his Cuban operation.

Probably Kennedy feels a measure of responsibility for the plight of the prisoners; and yet realizes the people would hate to rescue them by meeting Castro's terms. If and when the deal is made full details of government participation should be made public. We just don't like so much concealment in the use of public funds.

CPYRGHT